

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/752,090

Examiner

Qamrun Nahar

Applicant(s)

MARESCA ET AL.

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## -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to BPAI Decision on 07/19/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 52-53, 63-64 and 74-75, renumbered 1-6.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some\*   c) ☐ None   of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

### Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

#### **In the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 44-51, 54-62, 65-73, and 76-79; and

Please amend claims 52, 63 and 74 as follows:

44-51. (Canceled)

52. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 44;~~ A method for facilitating supplier qualification and quality management functions in a communications network environment, comprising:

qualifying suppliers, parts, and technologies in a collaborative network environment via a web-based user interface and shared data repository, said qualifying suppliers, parts, and technologies including:

acquiring supplier capabilities, part data, and supplier technology data from at least one collaborative source via said web-based user interface, said collaborative source

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including a supplier, a manufacturing representative, and at least one of an electronic catalog and a commercial data repository;

storing acquired data in said shared data repository, said acquired data accessible to affected collaborative sources; and

performing quality management functions via said web-based user interface and shared data repository, said quality management functions including at least one of:

managing identified changes to a supplier product;

managing process changes proposed by a supplier; and

assessing quality metrics provided by a supplier;

wherein said performing quality management functions includes:

identifying potential problems relating to a supplier;

alerting affected collaborative sources of said potential problems;

notifying management; and

collaborating with said supplier associated with said potential problems for

determining a resolution; and

generating a problem report.

54-62. (Canceled)

63. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 55,~~ A system for facilitating supplier qualification and quality management functions in a communications network environment, comprising:

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a supplier qualification and quality management application executing on a host system;  
a web-based user interface provided by supplier qualification and quality management application, said web-based user interface operable for collaboratively enabling qualification of suppliers, parts, and technologies over a network;

a shared data repository in communication with said host system;  
a workstation in communication with said host system, said workstation operated by a manufacturing representative;

a link to at least one supplier over said network, said at least one supplier in communication with said host system via said web-based user interface and said network;

wherein said collaboratively enabling qualification of suppliers, parts, and technologies includes:

acquiring supplier capabilities, part data, and supplier technology data from at least one collaborative source via said web-based user interface, said collaborative source including a supplier, said manufacturing representative, and at least one of an electronic catalog and a commercial data repository;

storing acquired data in said shared data repository, said acquired data accessible to affected collaborative sources; and

performing quality management functions via said web-based user interface and shared data repository, said quality management functions including at least one of:

managing identified changes to a supplier product;

managing process changes proposed by a supplier; and

assessing quality metrics provided by a supplier;

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further comprising a problem report, wherein said performing quality management functions includes:

identifying potential problems relating to a supplier;

alerting affected collaborative sources of said potential problems;

notifying management;

collaborating with said supplier associated with said potential problems

for determining a resolution; and

generating said problem report.

65-73. (Canceled)

74. (Currently Amended) ~~The storage medium of claim 66;~~ A storage medium encoded with machine-readable computer program code for facilitating supplier qualification and quality management functions in a communications network environment, program code including instructions for causing a host system to implement a method, comprising:

qualifying suppliers, parts, and technologies in a collaborative network environment via a web-based user interface and shared data repository, said qualifying suppliers, parts, and technologies including:

acquiring supplier capabilities, part data, and supplier technology data from at least one collaborative source via said web-based user interface, said collaborative source including a supplier, a manufacturing representative, and at least one of an electronic catalog and a commercial data repository;

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storing acquired data in said shared data repository, said acquired data accessible to affected collaborative sources; and

performing quality management functions via said web-based user interface and shared data repository, said quality management functions including at least one of:

managing identified changes to a supplier product;

managing process changes proposed by a supplier; and

assessing quality metrics provided by a supplier;

wherein said performing quality management functions includes:

identifying potential problems relating to a supplier;

alerting affected collaborative sources of said potential problems;

notifying management; and

collaborating with said supplier associated with said potential problems for

determining a resolution; and

generating a problem report.

76-79. (Canceled)

- END -

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***Conclusion***

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Qamrun Nahar whose telephone number is (571) 272-3730. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays through Fridays from 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

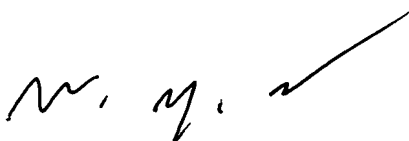
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wei Y Zhen, can be reached on (571) 272-3708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or processing is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 2100 Group receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Qamrun Nahar  
November 5, 2007



WEI ZHEN  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER